

STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY

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to the number of their camels. After a certain time an-Nûri or his son would ride out with his slaves to the different chiefs and collect the tax. Those who escaped and did not pay the tax were punished, when caught, with the loss of one camel. The collected tax was punctually conveyed by the prince to the Government, the prince retaining the half by which he had increased it. From this amount he made allotments to members of the ruling house and some chiefs; thus the following amounts were distributed:

to Hâled eben Saṭṭâm	£T150 (\$675);
to 'Adûb eben Meḡwel	£T20 (\$90);
to Fahad eben Maṣhûr	£T50 (\$225).

He himself retained at least £T150 (\$675), and in addition to this he sold annually three or four horses and twenty to thirty camels.

For each of his 30 to 35 horses the prince buys 5 loads of barley at £T1 (\$4.50) per load; for his guests, slaves, and family, 40 loads of flour at 40 *meḡdijjât* (\$36) per load, 20 loads of wheat at 15 *meḡdijjât* (\$13.50), 7 loads of *burrul* at £T2½ (\$11.25), 3 loads of rice at £T4 (\$18), 1½ loads of coffee at 100 *meḡdijjât* (\$90), 2 loads of sugar at £T5 (\$25), butter for £T55 (\$247.50); at least 100 rams or sheep for food at 3 *meḡdijjât* (\$2.70) each; five camels for food at £T10 (\$45) each; clothing and coverlets for his family and slaves and for gifts cost £T130 (\$585). He has 80 rifles, and every year he requires at least 6000 rounds of ammunition at the equivalent of 10 to 12 cents for each round. The repair of the tents and the upkeep of the tent materials and ropes cost annually £T50 (\$225). He must send gifts to the chiefs from time to time and feed an average of twenty people daily.

Insubordinate chiefs are dealt with by the prince where and as he can. Bhejder, a chief from the Frege, once departed with his kin when the camels were to be counted for the purpose of estimating how much tax each chief should pay. Prince an-Nûri sent word to him that he was to return immediately, but Bhejder paid no heed. Not until six months later did he come of his own accord on a camel to an-Nûri, and immediately fetters such as are worn by horses on their forefeet were placed upon him. He remained fettered for a whole month.

A weaker tribe has to acknowledge the supremacy of a stronger one and pay it a special tax, which is known as